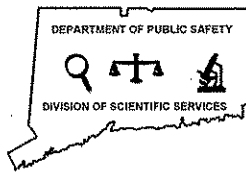




## STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

Rep. Joseph C. Serra, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Edith G. Prague, Co-Chairman  
Select Committee on Aging  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

January 27, 2009

### **SB 451 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SILVER ALERT SYSTEM**

***The Department of Public Safety advises of fiscal impact and other concerns.***

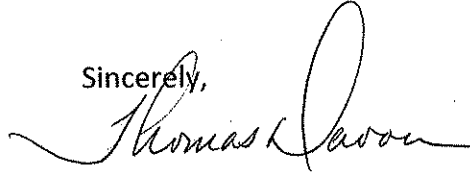
This proposed bill would require the establishment of a Missing Senior Citizen Information Clearinghouse within the Department of Public Safety. Passage of this bill would require a separate procedure and database for investigations of missing persons who are over 65. There is arguably not a sound policy reason for separating out this age population for a different procedure unless there are issues with Alzheimer's or some form of dementia, disabilities that are not limited to those sixty-five and over. The Department of Public Safety does not currently have the manpower to handle the extra workload that would be placed upon the Missing Person's Unit by passage of this bill. Additionally, the creation of a separate data base may require software improvements.

The proposed language seems to be largely taken from CGS 29-1e which requires a Missing Children Information Clearing House. That statutory requirement does not have a corresponding fiscal allocation and is carried out within available resources. Section 29-1f provides that the clearinghouse may, subject to available resources, assist in location of missing persons other than children.

In these trying fiscal times, it is unlikely that additional revenues will be made available to the Department of Public Safety to make a specialized effort in regard to missing persons investigations of those over 65.

The Department of Public Safety recognizes the special concerns that may be involved when the missing person is elderly and may have diminished mental capacity. The committee may wish to consider other possibilities that do not have state fiscal impact to address this concern. One possibility would be to investigate the possibility of developing a public and private effort for a Silver Alert that would be somewhat similar to the Amber Alert program with the Connecticut Broadcasters Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Davoren", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Thomas Davoren  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety